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Who is the Genius?
We confess to a patriotic curiosity to know the name of the person in the service of the United States Government who first conceived the idea of making the call for the motorless Sundays east of the Mississippi a request and not a command.
Such great conceptions are usually the product of individual intelligence. The initiative is not from plural effort. It goes back to some one man's wit, common sense, foresight and faith in the soundness of public opinion. It is rarely the result of a formal conference. Its promulgation may follow a conference on the subject, but somebody, some individual, has proposed the plan originally to the conference which adopts it as the expression of combined wisdom and joint authority.
Previous undertakings of similar import had been in the form of regulations based on the authority of law. People were told that there must be a sacrifice for the sake of the conservation of this or that war material. The machinery of enforcement, the penalty for disobedience were quite plainly in sight. Citizens grumbled a good deal and kicked a little when their comfort was impaired or the safety of their health threatened, as in the case of last winter's coal shortage. The ordinances were obeyed, of course, and the purpose was accomplished, but under process of compulsion more or less visibly and audibly attended by a reaction.
This man—for we insist that it was some one man, a man of genius—perceived that better results could be obtained by making the sacrifice and the service a purely voluntary matter, to be enforced only by an equally voluntary consensus of unofficial public opinion. He foresaw that the Government had only to ask and that the entire population concerned would loyally and joyfully cooperate. He knew with the faith that was in him that the spontaneous sentiment supporting the restriction would manifest itself with a potency which all the marshals and deputy marshals at the command of the Department of Justice could not exert. And he was right!
This man of genius, whoever he may be, is a profound psychologist, a clairvoyant seer, a practical administrator. He has served his country well, because he has done much more than to accomplish without friction, without reaction, the requisite saving of gasoline in the eastern part of the continent. He has evoked perhaps the most impressive and instructive demonstration of the American spirit that has been witnessed since the war began.
The Sun would like to know the name of this man of genius.

The Meaning of Allied Successes in the East.
The eastern theatre of the war, Asiatic Turkey and the Balkans, has come after a long period of comparative inactivity into a prominence which it has not had at any other time of the war. In both Turkey and the Balkans the Allies have just won victories that at any stage of the hostilities would have been distinct gains; but, following closely upon the disastrous and discouraging German reverses on the western front and representing overwhelming defeat to Bulgaria and Turkey, both weary of the war, and quarrelling over loot which each was promised for aid to the Central Powers, and which both now see they cannot acquire, these successes become vital factors in bringing the war to an end.
The two advances were undoubtedly concerted movements, and they were both arranged with a careful attention to details that would assure their success. When General Allenby struck the Turkish army in the plains of Edessa and compelled its surrender, the Allied army in the Balkans forced the Bulgarian position in the Mghlands east of Monastir. There was in these advances a similarity of strategy. General Allenby won his victory by a blow at the centre of his foe. The Balkan allies did not attempt an at-

tack along the whole front or in the Dobruja region, where the Bulgars and Germans had evidently expected it, but they forced the enemy's line at the centre of the Macedonian front. They thus gained the all important Vardar valley with its railway into the heart of Serbia and opened the way to the rear of the Bulgar-Austrian defences on the two flanks.
The Balkan success was a military achievement under great difficulties; for the Bulgars and Austrians had occupied this position from their invasion of Serbia, and had strongly fortified it. The bare, rugged hills and narrow valleys were easy of defence; one of the points in this same region was held in the Balkan war by a single company of Serbs against a Turkish regiment. Priple, the town around which centred so much of ancient Serb tradition and history, is dominated by a rocky mountain that formed the stronghold of legendary Serb heroes, and in modern warfare it has been considered impregnable against attack. The success of the movement has apparently proved a surprise at the Allied capitals, for one of the London papers says that "the Serbians have performed one of the most wonderful feats in military history, a deed comparable to the breaking of the Wotan line." In their fight the Serbians are struggling for the recovery of their homes and nation, and are proving what they can accomplish with guns and munitions equal in power to those of their foe.

The Allies have an immediate objective the control of the Vardar valley to the Greek border on the south and to Uskub, or Skopje, on the north. The possession of Uskub would open the way to Nish and the Morava valley, while the control of the Vardar would effectually divide the armies of the Central Powers in the Balkans. It would force their retirement on the eastward toward Bulgaria toward Sofia, and in the west to the protection of the Austrian positions in Albania.
This is the first serious setback that the Bulgarians have received in the war; it represents not only a defeat of their armies and the loss of territory of which they had planned to despoil Serbia, but at the same time the advance threatens the occupation of Bulgaria itself, which has so far been free from invasion. All this is a severe test of the morale of a nation that long ago saw no reason for a continuation of the war and was anxious to withdraw. Turkey cannot but see in the success of the Allies on Ottoman territory the growth of a spirit of revolt among the bitterly oppressed and misgoverned races that will constitute a serious internal condition and that will make her powerless to continue as a factor of any strength in the war. In Germany the results of these defeats of her allies cannot be measured alone by the effect that it will have upon an already anxious and disheartened people. Each of these allies is no longer an asset, a source of supplies and men, but a liability which she must protect if she is again, even in peace, to make tools of her aims and ambitions. She can expect no aid from them in fighting her battles. Even Austria must now turn to the protection of her western and southern frontiers.

What is "My Country?"
All reproductive imaginations—and we are confident that Sun readers are armed to the teeth with them—have the involuntary trick of building up mental pictures not only of visible things but of the invisible and perhaps utterly spiritual. Of the things that are visible, but have not been viewed by the owner of the imagination, it is often easy to fancy what is conjured up by the average mind. Usually it is the picture that has fastened upon the brain camera in youth. When the war came many people no doubt visualized it as an enlarged page from Harper's Weekly of Rebellion time. To some the German of the mental picture was a slow, gentle, decent sort of man. The Frenchman on the plate wore a silk hat and could do nothing more terrific than talk. Now the owners of these primitive imaginations have a new picture of the war, of the Frenchman and, indeed, of the German. When the owner of the same type of imagination goes to England he will find it something besides chalk cliffs and gorse and Elizabethan houses.
These errors made in imagining the real are, of course, errors of misformation or assumption. Imagining the invisible—which is only done by supplying some frame or shadow outline or by associating the unseen with the visible, is more fascinating. A year, for instance, has never been photographed, but in every human mind, we believe, there is a picture, perhaps crude and unformed, of twelve months. Some see it as a circle beginning and ending with New Year's. To others it may be a straight or undulating stretch connecting at the end with another stretch that is the following year. It may even be colored, wearing the green of spring, the sunlight of summer, the gold of autumn and the white of winter. As with a year, so it is with childhood, youth, grief, age, death. If it were not for the poets, the priests and GUSTAV DOSE, each of us would have his individual concept of heaven and hell.
It would be interesting to discover, through an inspection of the mental plates as they develop in the dark rooms of a hundred million American brains, what is the composite concept of the phrase "My country," the two words enveloping the idea for which—the delightful phrases about democracy to the contrary notwithstanding—millions of our men are fighting. What film throws its shadows on the

screen of the brain when "My Country" is heard?
Some, we are sure, will find on looking within that the vision which rises is geographical. A page of a schoolbook, with the map of the United States in colors, may glow before the eye of the mind. With others it may be a relief map, with the Mississippi shining in the middle and the Rocky Mountains rising hugely at the left. There is vastness in this concept, but how much sentiment? The nobler man may see his country in a smaller part of it, probably in the place where he was born or where his youth was spent. He may see a New England village with a white spire as the most conspicuous unit of the picture; or a flat field of the Middle West; or a farm-house, beautiful to him if not to the architects, blocked against a winter sunset. He may see a desert of the Southwest, with a train disappearing in the distance. He may see only the bleak white sands of southern New Jersey, with pumpkins among the corn. He may see nothing but a single peak of the first mountain range that ever met his sight.
The American's imagination may centre about some historical figure or set of men—WASHINGTON at Valley Forge, the Signing of the Declaration, WEBSTER speaking at Bunker Hill, LEWIS and CLARK preening across the wilderness. If he is a citizen of foreign birth, "My Country" may recall to him only the picture of a gray morning in New York harbor, with the bronze lady holding out to him the promise of freedom. Or he may see the skyline of New York that so terrified and pleased him on the first day of his new life.
It would be worth the time of a Freud to stop for a while the excursions into the meaning of meaningless dreams and to discover what is on the canvas of the patriot's imagination; what picture it is that makes men sacrifice everything rather than see the original lost. Perhaps, after all, it is Home.

The Equal Suffrage Vote To-morrow.
The resolution submitting to the States the constitutional amendment which grants equal suffrage to women is due in the Senate to-morrow for the vote that has already been too long delayed. The resolution has already passed the House. We hope the Senate will meet the question squarely and send this just and righteous amendment to the several States for ratification without further delay.
That equal suffrage for men and women is to prevail, and to prevail through Federal enactment, seems to THE SUN to be as certain as that democracy and democratic institutions are to endure in the United States. Those who have believed that this rectification of an inveterate injustice and inequality should be made to attend upon local opinion within the States are rapidly coming to the opposite conviction. President Wilson, for example, now writes to a member of the Senate: "I do earnestly believe that our action upon this amendment will have an important and immediate influence upon the whole atmosphere and morale of the nations engaged in the war, and every day I am coming to see how supremely important that side of the whole thing is."
Let the vote be pressed on Thursday according to schedule in order that the country may see how the Senate stands.

That it may be pressed at once to success must be the hope of all those who believe that there is a larger politics than that which concerns itself with calculations of local effect; that there is a larger philosophy than that which bids Federal legislation keep its hands away from this measure of equal rights as a matter beyond its province; and this with the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments already a part of the fundamental law!

The Pelican.
Visitors to Florida and the adjoining States on the Gulf will be delighted that the brown pelican, the emblematic bird of Louisiana, whose death was asked by the commercial fisheries interests, has a right to live. Bills were introduced last year in Florida to allow the killing of pelicans, gulls and other fish-eating sea birds, as they are "so terrifically destructive to food fishes." Indeed, the campaign even reached to the neighboring State of New Jersey, and a bill came close to passage to permit the killing of sea gulls.
The statement was made by the commercial fisheries interests of the Gulf States that "if we are going to have enough fish food to win this war" these birds, especially the pelican, must be destroyed. The objections summarized by the United States Food Administration included three counts: that the birds annually destroy millions of pounds of food fish; that the birds interfere materially with the operation of the fishermen and result in largely reduced catches of food fish; and lastly, that the pelican "serves no useful purpose whatever, and is not a scavenger, never having been known to eat fish that have been washed ashore," and so forth.
Thanks to the investigation of T. GILBERT PEARSON of the National Association of Audubon Societies, the Biological Survey and the fish and game commissioners of Florida, Texas and Louisiana, the indictment is found not to be a true bill. Making an investigation that requires men to wade in swamps up to the waist, with mosquitoes feasting upon exposed parts, is worth going through,

however, to find truth. The pelican helped the investigators learn the truth. When alarmed the bird drops the contents of its bill, which it is estimated in the adult bird will hold four quarts.
The diet of the pelican consists in these waters of menhaden, principally, varied with mullet, pigfish, pinfish, herring and an occasional crayfish. Only two of these are food fish, and their price in the market does not exceed four cents a pound. Menhaden has never been used for human consumption, although the United States Bureau of Fisheries is now engaged in experiments to utilize this fish for food, if possible. The mutilated fish complained of by the commercial fishermen turned out to be those cut by nets.
Incidentally, the investigation disclosed the fact that pelicans are diminishing in numbers, but doubtless the reason why former colonies of the bird are deserted is the lack of food. The pelican is an asset as a curiosity. The tired business man and his wife, spending the winter in Florida, find much amusement in watching the antics of the queer birds. Incidentally, is the world to be deprived of picture postcards that every one travelling in Florida and the Gulf States takes so much pleasure in forwarding? What sells camera and film rolls in Florida? The same malignant pelican. Legislators may of this: no step looking to the destruction of this bird will be taken while conservationists are on the firing line—without a fight.

The disappearance of the towering, massive figure of General LIMAN VON SANDERS, the Turkish Generalissimo, from Nazareth must have been one of the interesting sights of the Palestine advance. LIMAN VON SANDERS was sent by the Kaiser a year before the war to teach and train the Turkish army. He early adopted the motto of "treat 'em rough," and he was the man most generally hated by the Turkish soldier. It would have been no doubt, some satisfaction to the defeated Ottoman army to see the obnoxious German commander a British prisoner. But he executed his movement to the rear, as the Mayor of Nazareth said, "when he heard that the British cavalry was near the Ikkandran," and left his pupils to take care of themselves. A few of them followed him he had evidently reserved the trick of the manoeuvre for his own use.

Drawing the capsules is truly a lottery in which ultimately only the Kaiser can lose.
Lone bandit robs a train.—Headline.
General Director McCADDY will undoubtedly class this interesting and once thrilling Western industry among the "unessentials."
Heavy rainfall undoubtedly hampers the American forces, but, with the impartiality of Nature, it also prevents the Hun from displaying his eastward fleetness.
On the derivation of the word there is no end of controversy, but to declare that the Bulgars are "skeddaddling" would be to establish its accepted significance beyond dispute.

The war has brought the heretofore despised penny to Hawaii.—Hawaii dispatch.
It will be a poor time to win respect for it if it buys no more than it does at present in New York.
ALLENBY's line from the Jordan to the sea liberates four oppressed nationalities, 15,000,000 people that have been crushed beneath the heel of the intolerant Turk.
THE MILESTONES.
They Marked the Way for the Ancient Traveller.
To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Can you give me the history of those four or five milestones along the former Old Boston Road, and any interesting information concerning them? The first mile stone is on the Bowery, about Spring street. INTERESTED.
HACKENSACK, N. J., September 24.

The milestones were placed on the Boston road in the eighteenth century for the usual purpose of informing the traveller how he was getting on. The first was in the Bowery, opposite Rivington street; the second, in Third avenue near Sixteenth street; the fourth, in Third avenue near Fifty-seventh street; the fifth, in Third avenue near Seventy-seventh street. If there was ever a three mile stone it should have been at Third avenue near Thirty-sixth or Thirty-seventh street.
Perhaps in Mercy to the Other Poets.
To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Why are excerpts from the works of the poet John M. Ellsworth, a native of New York, from the collection entitled "Poems Worth Reading" appearing in the Sunday issues of THE SUN? PAUL PLATT.
COOPERSTOWN, September 24.

The Big Apple Pie.
When a fellow has fought
In the trenches all day,
And gets back to the bus
Of the Y. M. C. A.,
The first thing that catches
His eye is a double pie,
Is a tasteful brown segment
Of fresh apple pie.
He forgets all the racket,
The shell holes and mud,
The crumpled up figures
Battered with blood,
The death that's abroad
On the earth in the sky,
When he munches a slice
From a thick apple pie.
He dreams while he eats
Of the orchard at home,
Where the apple trees bear
Into raptures foam.
And red northern apple
Grow ripe to be baked
Into good apple pie.
The food of the gods
May be honey or dew,
But the food of the soul
Of the rest, who are blue,
Who on Liberty's altar
Are ready to die,
Is a generous hunk
From a big apple pie.
MIRZA IZVINE.

ARSENE: THE NEW POISON GAS.
The Germans continue to work their gas factory, but there are signs that a lack of "punch" prevails in practically every detail. That they were using during the recent French offensive a shell containing a new gas was suspected by surgeons, and the cases in which the poison showed its effects were gathered together in one hospital and studied by Professor Rendu. The number is comparatively small, about forty-three, which seems to indicate that the gas was in only moderately successful. After a careful examination of the men, the general result is rather encouraging, for the new gas turns out to be something of a fiasco. From the description that is now given, it is seen that, so far from being sudden and violent, the effects of the new gas are of a kind, not at all corresponding to the general idea of a simulant, inasmuch as there is no special odor belonging to it and no color, so that its presence in the air is invisible. It is certainly remarkable that a gas possessing these seemingly "antagonistic" lack of smell and invisibility—should be such a poor performer.
To place this gas exactly is difficult as yet, because the medical report is not complete, but it may be fairly understood by comparing it with the other irritating gas, yperite, or mustard. Both these gases are chlorinated, yperite being chemically a sulphite of ethyl, and arsene the chloride of di-phenylarsene. When the shell explodes the effects have marked differences, yperite being discharged in minute drops and arsene in small solid particles. In the case of arsene a faint smell is noticed directly after the shells burst, and suggests garlic, which aroused the first suspicion that some new form of poisonous element was being used. The suspicion was not immediately confirmed, for garlic gas does not cause symptoms until an interval of hours or even days. In fact, in some men nothing was noticed until three days had passed.
This peculiarity of arsene seems to show that it is not the emetic gas used in the drive against the Italians last year. It has somewhat similar effects, causing a flow of tears and vomiting, but these symptoms are regarded as largely the result of other gases, which may be used at the same time. The object of using garlic gas was undoubtedly to produce an inflammation of the throat and eyes, and blinding effects on the skin. The resulting symptoms are sufficiently pronounced to claim careful treatment, but fortunately the mortality is low, not more than 0.7 per cent. The factors that make this gas so formidable are the irritation of the eyes and throat, with bronchitis, hoarseness, cough, and, in a certain proportion of the men, with temporary loss of voice. So far the losses experienced have been slight, falling considerably below enemy expectations. Now estimated that a large majority of the men will recover. Enemy anticipations in regard to the surprise effects of this gas, owing to its invisibility and lack of odor, seemed doomed to disappointment. It is said that soldiers have learned to detect its presence by the smell of garlic, although it is faint and may be overcome by there are other confusing factors. On the whole, so far as can be judged now, this form of gas warfare is not as successful as the earlier attacks, and the danger soon may be entirely eliminated.

OLD NUMBER 38.
The Question of Fire Protection in the Washington Heights Neighborhood.
To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: There is a considerable amount of agitation on Washington Heights over the action of Fire Commissioner Drennan in abolishing one of the oldest engine companies in that section, Engine Company 38, Amsterdam avenue, near 155th street. Taxpayers are up in arms and civic organizations are demanding that the Commissioner should not do this. They feel that the Commissioner has been too hasty in his action. About all the information those interested can get is that the company was disbanded for economical reasons. But it is difficult to convince the taxpayers and business men of the Heights that there is any economy in lessening the fire protection of a section which is daily growing more important. They feel that instead of lessening the protection it should be increased. They expect that the fire insurance rate will jump when the companies become so scanty. The fact that one more company has been disbanded and the controversy divided has been a decline in the rate of fire insurance. For instance, in 1913 Commissioner Johnson established a double engine company in 131st street, near Amsterdam avenue. Last July the present Commissioner disbanded the second section of this company. It is said that Washington Heights is the only section of the city where a decline in the rate of fire insurance has been experienced. About two years ago the second section of Engine Company 58, Amsterdam avenue and 139th street, was abolished. And yet former Chief Croker once remarked that if he had his way every fire company in Harlem and the Heights would have two sections.
Further the shagging of firemen may have had something to do with Commissioner Drennan's action. If such was the case the Commissioner's action was not justified, because there are enough men in the immediate locality who would have been only too glad to volunteer for service to protect their homes.

A. HANCOCK.
NEW YORK, September 24.
A Little Lancashire Is a Dangerous Thing.
To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Mr. Frank H. Vizetelly may know Norse, but he does not know Lancashire dialect. The sentence he quotes or uses would be more nearly correct if he said, "Then met go wrong wit' this word if t'her't kjoan careful, 'cause a mon's yet met be added." W. H. W.
NEW YORK, September 24.
It Would Make the Right Wing of a Palindrome.
To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The word "Potadam" alone is not a palindrome. "Madam!" is. W. H. W.
NEW YORK, September 24.
Heard the News.
Molly Cottontail—Gee, is the Government going to fix a price for me?
MIRZA IZVINE.

GERMAN IN NEBRASKA.
The Case Where Children Were Threatened for Speaking English.
To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Our attention has been called to a statement in your columns which reads as follows: "In Nebraska investigations by the State Council of National Defence revealed instances of pupils in the schools being punished for speaking English."
We do not know where this statement originated, but it has appeared in several publications.
There is no instance on record of school children in Nebraska being punished for speaking the English language. There was one instance where punishment was threatened, and Robert L. Metcalfe of Omaha, former member of the Nebraska State Council of Defence, who made a special investigation along these lines, reports that it is the only instance of its kind the Council can discover in the State of Nebraska.
The circumstances in connection with this one instance were as follows: In Thayer county there was a group of eleven children who went to a German parochial school on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week, and on Friday attended the public school. These eleven children persisted in talking German on the day they attended the public school, and on inquiry the public school teacher learned that these particular children were in the habit of talking German because their parents were German. Teachers and children have been untiring in their efforts to promote whatever the Government has asked in prosecuting the war to a successful conclusion.
There are 1,799 school houses in the State of Nebraska, of which 255, or less than 14 per cent, are parochial schools and formerly gave instruction in the German or other foreign languages. Total enrolment of school children in Nebraska is 292,362, of which approximately 19,000, or less than 4 per cent, formerly studied foreign languages. Principally these were located in the German or other foreign languages. Of the German teachers 120 were ministers in the German Lutheran parishes where the parochial schools were located. A report recently published by the Missouri Lutheran Synod, which has jurisdiction over a part of the Nebraska churches, stated, "English is now exclusively used in instruction in all schools. The German national hymn is not sung in any of our schools." Nebraska has not always been free from pro-Germanism, but its influence has always been small and is constantly decreasing, and is now almost negligible.

ARTHUR THOMAS,
Manager Bureau of Publicity, Omaha Chamber of Commerce.
OMAHA, Neb., September 23.
SKEDADDLE.
Can the Word Be Shown to Have Existed Before 1862?
To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: How curiously history repeats itself! I have just read in your issue of the 22nd inst. an article on the word "skeddaddling" during our civil war, and I am confident that I never heard it used before the second year at least of that war. I remember distinctly also that it was then the general opinion that it was an entirely new and colorful word, derived from the Greek verb "skeddadon," meaning to put letters and syllables together in an unusual way. The word was certainly widely accepted as a species of onomatopoeic word carrying its own meaning with it. I do not recall now whether the South took up the word, but in the North it was applied only in the case of Confederate defeats and rapid retreats.
Later arose just the same sort of controversy over the origin of the word by newspaper correspondents as has appeared recently in the columns of THE SUN, until some writer put forth the opinion, just as has been done by you, that the word had been known by Greek writers within the last few days, that the word is derived from the Greek verb "skeddadon."
The result at that time was that those who knew no Greek were unable to advance any contradiction of the opinion, the Greek scholars were satisfied that the point had been settled, and the controversy died. But it was revived now after the passage of fifty years.

So there is nothing new about the controversy, and nothing new about the theory of a Greek derivation of "skeddaddling." It was all hashed up in the newspapers half a century ago, and I haven't the slightest doubt that a decision of the subject, the Greek derivation included, could be discovered somewhere in the files of THE SUN for the years 1862, 1863 or 1864. If any interested person will take the time and trouble to look them up. Nihil novum, etc.
LUCIEN G. CHAFFIN.
NEW YORK, September 24.
Cure for the Tobacco Habit.
From the Charlotte Observer.
Among the American soldiers who have gone to France there has been a decline in the American habit of chewing tobacco. Y. M. C. A. secretaries who sell tobacco in cantines in France say that the American soldiers, rather than the prevalent habit of smoking, are now doing the trick they say. A devotee of the plug is seriously embarrassed when called upon to don the gas mask. One Southern soldier is said to have put it like this: "With tobacco stick inside 'twen yer teeth, mustard gas all about ye an' no chanst ter open yer mouth—war sure is hell!"
Shadow and Flame.
From the Edison Monthly.
The sunset darts where the pavements blend
With river and shore at the long street's end
In a luminous mist of gray.
Under the wall of our bedrooms deep
The souls of the past awake from sleep.
Haunting the pathways their hearts have
Their dreams are living in steel and stone.
But we dream that we are alone.
Their faces are dust and their souls are
Faded
Who anchored here in the Port of the
World
New squadrons challenge their Fate,
Forgotten forms wracked their crowding
We prize the lightning in weaving wires,
Our caravans burrow under the wires put
Where the heart and brain that gave us
Dreamed of a mighty State.
Into a city of marvellous mould
They wrought their souls as they cast
Their gold.
They won for us name and fame,
Shadows are they, but their dreams are
Woven about them our world has grown.
Magic, the light in our battlement walls,
Crown it with stars when the white stars
Fall.
Write us our dream—in flame!
L. LAMPERT.

MR. LANSING'S NOTE.
One Reader Who Looked Upon It as Too Mild.
To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Is there anything in the annals of government or of diplomacy to equal the Bolshhevik? It says in effect to the worst, most cruel and bloody band of robbers, murderers and traitors who have ever appeared in history, who have sold their country to the Hun and made it a slaughter pen to bind the bargain, that they really must not be too sure of themselves. The same time that we have no intention of interfering with them; this despite the fact that it is a virtual recognition of them as a de facto Government, though they have never been clothed with authority by any one, and are in open alliance with our enemies.
A. H.
LANOX, September 24.

If the correspondent refers to Secretary Lansing's note, then he has not read that document carefully. It was not addressed to the Bolshheviks, so-called Government, but, through our diplomatic service, to allied and neutral Governments. THE SUN does not read in the note any assurance that we have no intention of interfering with the Bolshheviks. We take Mr. Lansing's phrase "action which is entirely divorced from the atmosphere of belligerency and the conduct of war" to be an assurance to neutral Governments that they are asked, not to enter the war, but to join in the face of civilization against anarchy in Russia.

HIGH COST OF ROOMING.
Attention Called to the Vacant Houses in Manhattan and Brooklyn.
To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Prices for furnished rooms, the rooming house kind, are fast passing into the class of luxuries. Now \$12 a week for a single room is a common request. I know, because I have investigated many of the advertisements carried by one of our newspapers.
At the same time hundreds of vacant houses in mid-Manhattan and on the Heights, Brooklyn (memories of Wall street-Montague street ferry days), make these districts look like deserted cities. It is not possible to awaken an interest in turning these old timers into small apartments? Probably hundreds of them could be so transformed at a nominal cost.
I have been looking for a small apartment of about four rooms and bath at a reasonable rental in which to move my family, for the purpose of saving months. Meanwhile I am, with my wife, still rooming.
NEW YORK, September 24.
There is a considerable obstacle in the difficulty, under present conditions, of securing the kind of housing required for extensive reconstruction.

IDLE BLAST FURNACES.
Why Not Draft Men for the Coal and Iron Mines if Production Is Short?
To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: We hear constant talk about the curtailment of production in so-called non-essential industries in order that raw material so employed may be used for war purposes, but if no work comes to us of any account, it is impossible to awaken an interest in turning these old timers into small apartments? Probably hundreds of them could be so transformed at a nominal cost.
I have been looking for a small apartment of about four rooms and bath at a reasonable rental in which to move my family, for the purpose of saving months. Meanwhile I am, with my wife, still rooming.
NEW YORK, September 24.
There is a considerable obstacle in the difficulty, under present conditions, of securing the kind of housing required for extensive reconstruction.

WILL SPEED UP PROCESS.
As I explained in my statement of September 8, addressed to employers and other representatives of industry, the boards will welcome and need all the aid that can be furnished by the indication of a claim made for deferment. With this in mind, the process will become a simple and speedy one. Time and labor will not be wasted on needless search, and ample time will be gained for the adjustment of cases where the claim is explicitly raised.
"It should be borne in mind by the individual registrant that the military program of this country, but around the desire of all concerned to win victory for our cause as quickly as possible, demands of the selective service the utmost speed in classifying the 13,000,000 registrants who registered on September 12.
"If all these 13,000,000 registrants were to incline to aid the boards by indicating their own attitude regarding deferment and were to rely entirely on the ability of the boards to provide the propriety of making deferment the whole process of raising the question would be seriously hampered and delayed. It applies equally to those entitled to deferment on the ground of dependency, every class of deferment, and every occupation. Employers and the registrant or a competent third person in his behalf.
Careful reading of the questionnaire will enable the registrant to answer the other questions without difficulty, but Series X, covering dependency, will need many cases of the careful study. The registrant must answer the first question, but if his answer is "no," and he does not claim deferment on account of dependency, he need not answer the other questions. If his answer is "yes," he must answer all the other questions.

WHY GIRLS DON'T COOK.
Remarks on the Effect of Kitchen Work Upon a Woman's Hands.
To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The old fashioned talk about girls not knowing how to cook is out of place in these days. Our girls should not be criticized because they don't "love to cook." I am considering the average girl, whose fortune does not permit the hiring of a cook. As a rule mothers prefer to do the cooking themselves and give the girls a chance to engage in outside industries that will help in the upkeep of the family. In many occupations a girl's hands are her best asset. Handling pots and pans, peeling potatoes, washing vegetables, etc., spoil the hands for industrial work. Performers on musical instruments, typewriters, telephone operators, manicurists, nurses, film embroiders, must have soft, pliant fingers to do their work properly. Saleswomen must have velvet palms to handle the fine fabrics on their counters.
Outside of the above named occupations, our girls are doing their dearest in strenuous work for the country. What does it matter if they don't love to cook? When the war is over and the boys come home the girls will quickly learn to cook for love's sake.
NEW YORK, September 24.

INQUIRY ABOUT A STAR HANGING AROUND VENUS.
To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Will the astronomer department of THE SUN enlighten the reader, who is over-negligent in regard to the stars? The morning stars are at this period of exceptional brilliancy.
I recognize Orion, Sirius, Jupiter, Castor and Pollux, Procyon, and of course, Venus. What is the brilliant small star so very near the latter, and will your astronomer explain, in such plain language that one who knows so little about stars as I can understand, when Venus will become the evening star?
A VETERAN READER.
NEW YORK, September 24.

THE HOOVER GOSPEL.
Knicker—What is the programme?
Bocker—The clean plate and the dusty cup.
MATHIEU NEW CHILLEAN AMBASSADOR.
SANTIAGO, Chile, Sept. 21.—The Chilean Ambassador has accepted the post of Minister to the United States. He succeeds Santiago Aldunate, who died in Washington last April. Mathieu formerly was Minister to Bolivia.

GEN. CROWDER AIDS DRAFT REGISTRANTS
Makes Public Manual to Legal Advisory Boards on Questionnaires.
ASKS EXEMPTION CLAUSE
Reminds Men With Dependents That These Must Make Supporting Affidavits.

Special Dispatch to The Sun.
WASHINGTON, Sept. 24.—General Crowder took two timely and practical steps to-day toward assisting draft registrants who are now receiving their questionnaires.
He made public a statement urging registrants to assist the boards in speedily classifying them by stating frankly whether or not they have grounds for deferred classification, and he made public a manual for the local advisory boards the contents of which serve to show registrants how to make out their questionnaires properly.
The exact date of the national lottery cannot yet be announced owing to delay in getting the last related returns from the various boards charged with the duty of assigning serial numbers. One board got its instructions tangled and will have to assign serial numbers again to its entire list. However, there is still hope of holding the national lottery this week.

Wants Claims Made.
The frank statement by Gen. Crowder regarding claims for deferred classification is particularly timely, because an important issue again has been decided by certain newspaper disclosures. The question of whether a man should or should not dispense with false ideas of chivalry and answer frankly the question on page 1 of his questionnaire as to whether he claims exemption or deferred classification, etc.
Gen. Crowder points out that if the registrant really wants to assist the Government instead of catering to his own individual sense of "misplaced chivalry" he should do as the Government asks him. Gen. Crowder's statement is as follows:
"In order once again to correct erroneous impressions which appear to exist in some quarters this office desires to reassert that there has been no change made in the regulations regarding the authority of local boards to grant deferred classification to registrants on the ground of dependency. Local boards have always had the right to extend deferred classification to registrants on the ground of dependency. A registrant is therefore at liberty, if he sees fit, to trust to the scrutiny of the boards to discover by examination of his questionnaire the necessity for his deferment. But pressed as they have been in their work boards have been and will be prone to defer to the judgment of the local board of registrars on the point that he has no dependents who require that he continue in civil life and to refrain in such cases from the usual classification on the ground of dependency.

"As I explained in my statement of September 8, addressed to employers and other representatives of industry, the boards will welcome and need all the aid that can be furnished by the indication of a claim made for deferment. With this in mind, the process will become a simple and speedy one. Time and labor will not be wasted on needless search, and ample time will be gained for the adjustment of cases where the claim is explicitly raised.
"It should be borne in mind by the individual registrant that the military program of this country, but around the desire of all concerned to win victory for our cause as quickly as possible, demands of the selective service the utmost speed in classifying the 13,000,000 registrants who registered on September 12.
"If all these 13,000,000 registrants were to incline to aid the boards by indicating their own attitude regarding deferment and were to rely entirely on the ability of the boards to provide the propriety of making deferment the whole process of raising the question would be seriously hampered and delayed. It applies equally to those entitled to deferment on the ground of dependency, every class of deferment, and every occupation. Employers and the registrant or a competent third person in his behalf.
Careful reading of the questionnaire will enable the registrant to answer the other questions without difficulty, but Series X, covering dependency, will need many cases of the careful study. The registrant must answer the first question, but if his answer is "no," and he does not claim deferment on account of dependency, he need not answer the other questions. If his answer is "yes," he must answer all the other questions.

Wives Must Make Affidavits.
Claims for deferred classification on the grounds of dependency are not valid unless supported by affidavits of the dependents. If the husband claims deferred classification because of a dependent wife and children the wife must make affidavit that she is dependent on the husband and that his answers are true.
Likewise in questions of industrial exemption the employee in claiming deferred classification on the ground of being necessary to a necessary industry must have a supporting affidavit from his employer. The claim without the supporting affidavit has no value in the case of the employee. Affidavits must be made out by his immediate superior and affidavit No. 2 by the executive head of the enterprise.
If the business extends into more than one State, affidavit No. 2 may be made by the head of the division or office in which the registrant is actually employed. If the registrant's superior is an executive head of a necessary industry, affidavit No. 1 shall be made by the executive head of the enterprise, and affidavit No. 2 by a near neighbor. If he is not both affidavits must be made by near neighbors.

Mathieu New Chilean Ambassador.
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